

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer wherein at least 80% of the repeat units comprise
 - a) an ion-conducting region having an aromatic backbone of ~~one or more aromatic groups~~ at least one aromatic group, wherein at least one ion-conducting functional group is attached to each aromatic group; and
 - b) a spacer region having an aromatic backbone of at least four aromatic groups, wherein no ion-conducting functional groups are attached to the aromatic backbone,

such that at least 80% of the polymer chain contains alternate ion-conducting and spacer regions along the length of the chain.

2. (Original) A polymer according to claim 1, wherein at least 95% of the repeat units comprise the ion-conducting region and the spacer region.
3. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the ~~one or more~~ at least one aromatic group in the ion-conducting region ~~are~~ is selected from the group consisting of phenylene, naphthylene ~~or and~~ anthracenylene groups.
4. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein each aromatic group in the aromatic backbone of the ion-conducting region is adjacent to an electron-donating group.
5. (Original) A polymer according to claim 4, wherein the electron-donating group is an ether group.
6. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one ion-conducting functional group is a sulphonic acid group.
7. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the ratio of the number of aromatic groups in the spacer region to the number of aromatic groups in the ion-conducting region is at least 2:1.

8. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the at least four aromatic groups in the spacer region are selected from the group consisting of phenylene, naphthylene ~~or~~ and anthracenylene groups.
9. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the at least four aromatic groups in the spacer region are connected by electron withdrawing groups.
10. (Original) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein the electron-withdrawing groups are sulphone or ketone groups.
11. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, which has an equivalent weight of less than 800g mol^{-1} .
12. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, which has an inherent viscosity of greater than 1.0dl/g .
13. (Currently Amended) A polymer solution comprising a polymer according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.
14. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a polymer according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.
15. (Currently Amended) An electrocatalyst layer on a substrate wherein the electrocatalyst layer comprises a polymer according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.
16. (Currently Amended) A membrane electrode assembly comprising one or both of a polymer electrolyte membrane ~~according to claim 14 and/or~~ and an electrocatalyst layer on a substrate, wherein the polymer electrolyte membrane and the electrocatalyst layer comprise a polymer according to claim ~~15~~ 1.